(a) whether there is any proposal for development of Bhadeli-Jagalala fisheries harbour in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time schedule for implementation of the works of development of the said harbour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat has conveyed their intention to develop a fishing harbour at Bhadeli-Jagalala in Valsad District of Gujarat. The Techno Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) in respect of this proposal has been finalized by the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries, Bangalore. The Government of Gujarat has been requested to convey the acceptability of TEFR and to confirm availability of land, environmental clearance and adequate budgetary provision in the State budget.

New agro-meteorological service

3679. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has launched a new agro-meteorological advisory service to offer more precise advice to farmers with a view to improve agriculture productivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the existing agro-meteorological service is being operated from the agro-climatic zones; and

(d) if so, how the new agro-meteorological advisory service is different from the existing one?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. However, India Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Sciences is implementing new agro-meteorological advisory service to offer more precise advice to farmers with a view to improve agriculture productivity by involving stakeholders such as Ministry of Earth Science, Ministry of Agriculture, State Agriculture Universities/Departments etc. under a five tier structure with defined roles and responsibilities.

(b) In order to help the farming community to minimize weather and climate induced risks in farming sector, India Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Sciences has launched Integrated Agro-meteorological Advisory Services (IAAS) since June, 2008. The main objective of the scheme is to provide district level weather forecast in a quantitative form and prepare need based agromet advisories on weather wise farm management. The service is multi-disciplinary, hence, the project is being implemented involving stakeholders such as Ministry of Earth Science, Ministry of Agriculture, State Agriculture Universities/Departments etc. under a five tier structure with defined roles and responsibilities.

IMD is issuing district level weather forecast since 1st June 2008 for rainfall, temperature, wind direction and speed and cloudiness for 5 days with cumulative rainfall. A number of advanced forecasting models are being used to generate district level forecast. The district weather forecast is communicated to 130 Agromet Field Units (IMFUs) in the country on every Tuesdays and Fridays for preparation of the District level farm advisory bulletins. These AMFUs are located at State Agriculture Universities, Institutes of Indian Council of Agriculture Research etc. and are supported and managed by IMD. Agro-meteorological advisories, prepared by these AMFUs, include suggestions on farm management action in view of prognosticated weather conditions for crops and livestock. It helps farmer in selecting the crop/variety, sowing period, irrigation management, fertilizer management, pest/disease management, harvest time and post harvest handling of farm produce.

The advisories are communicated through multi-channel dissemination system including radio, television, newspapers, internet, NGOs, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kisan Call Centres, Extension network of State Agriculture Universities etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) (i) In the new service, the temporal range of weather forecast has been increased form 4 days to 5 days.

(ii) The new service has been upgraded and is being operated at district level.

Poaching of intellectual property rights

3680. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large areas has been sown in Pakistan with Pusa-1121 variety and that a similar area was sown there with the same seed last year also;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistani authorities are trying to pass it off as a new variety under the name Kayanat;

(c) if so, the action Government has taken or proposes to take against this poaching of intellectual property rights of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research; and

(d) how will this development would affect the dispute on the issue of Basmati rice in progress in WTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As reports available, it is being grown in Pakistan, but not in a major way.

(b) Pakistan Government has not registered the variety Kayanat so far. However, media reports and traders' advertisements on the Internet suggest the existence of generic/trade names like 1121 (Kayanat), Kianat (1121) and 1121-Kiynat-Pussa etc. in Pakistan.

(c) For protection of intellectual property rights vested in 'Basmati Rice' abroad, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, through Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export